

IN THE CLAIMS

5 1. A simple network management protocol (SNMP) network power control system, comprising:

 a host system with a SNMP network manager and providing for a TCP/IP communication connection and able to issue GET and SET commands;

10 a plurality of intelligent power modules (IPM's) connected to an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) and providing at least one of power-on sensing, load sensing and power cycling on/off, and further including a "tickle" signal output that responds to a first SET command issued by a

15 system administrator and the host system;

 a plurality of network appliances connected to receive operating power from a corresponding one of said IPMs such that each IPM may cycle operating power on/off in response to a second SET command issued by a system

20 administrator and the host system; and

 a power manager with a SNMP agent connected to said TCP/IP communication connection and able to individually control each IPM according to receipt of said GET and SET commands;

25 wherein a user may confirm that a particular intelligent power module will respond to a command to shut-off power with said first SET command before said second SET command is issued to actually shut off operating power to a particular one of the network appliances.

2. The power control system of claim 1, wherein:
 - each of the plurality of IPMs includes a microprocessor that has a first output port to issue said "tickle" signal and a second output port to control said operating power to an associated network appliance.
3. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:
 - 10 said "tickle" signal is a dry-contact relay output signal that controls the logic status of a serial interface included in said associated network appliance.
4. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:
 - 15 said "tickle" signal is tested while said associated network appliance is in a normal operating mode by issuing said first SET command.
5. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:
 - 20 said second SET command is issued when said associated network appliance is in an abnormal operating mode and cannot respond to said "tickle" signal.